

Highlights

This issue of the *Natural Gas Monthly* (NGM) contains estimates of natural gas data through February 2004 for many data series at the national level. National-level natural gas prices are available through February 2004. State-level data generally are available through February 2004, although underground storage data are available through March 2004.

Recent analyses of the natural gas industry are available on the EIA web site, www.eia.doe.gov, under "Featured Topics" to the right side of the home page. The first two reports listed below are updated regularly. These reports are:

- *Weekly Natural Gas Storage Report* -- a weekly report containing estimates of natural gas in underground storage for the United States and three regions of the United States released each Thursday at 10:30 a.m. at the EIA Web site, except for certain weeks with Federal holidays. The report, first released on May 9, 2002, contains

estimates of storage for the current and prior week and comparisons to previous periods. Links are provided to papers describing survey Form EIA-912, "Weekly Underground Natural Gas Survey," and the estimation methodology.

- *Natural Gas Weekly Update* -- a current analysis of the industry each week, including information on natural gas spot and futures prices and storage activities. This page also provides links to numerous other EIA sites dealing with natural gas.
- *Short-Term Energy Outlook* -- projections of energy consumption, supply, and price by type of fuel, including natural gas, for the next 18 months.

Other natural gas data and analyses may be found through the "Natural Gas" section of EIA's web site. In the center section of the home page, the user should place the cursor on "By Fuel," then click on "Natural Gas" in the drop-down menu.

Consumption for Electric Power Sector and Electric Utility Prices

Data for the volume of natural gas consumed by the Electric Power Sector in February 2004 and the price of gas paid by electric utilities in January 2004 were not available for this issue of the *Natural Gas Monthly*. The Energy Information Administration expects to release those data in the *Electric Power Monthly* before the June issue of the *Natural Gas Monthly* becomes available. You may find that report on the EIA web site. Click on the by-fuel section of the EIA home page and select electricity. The URL for direct access to the *Electric Power Monthly* is http://www.eia.doe.gov/cneaf/electricity/epm/epm_sum.html

National level consumption by the electric power sector for February 2004 shown in this *Natural Gas Monthly* was estimated from the STEO Query System available at (http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/STEO_Query/app/).

Electric Power Price

The price shown for January 2002 forward in the *Natural Gas Monthly* for natural gas consumed by electricity generators now represents both that used by regulated utilities and by nonregulated power producers whose line of business is the generation of power. (NAICS 22 facilities) Publication of these data is supported by two separate surveys: FERC-423, "Monthly Report of Cost and Quality of Fuels for Electric Plants", which is completed by regulated utilities and Form EIA-423, "Monthly Report of Cost and Quality of Fuels for Electric Plants Report," which is completed by nonregulated power producers. The latter survey, started in 2002, collects information from the nonutility portion of the electric power sector.

Price data through 2001 cover gas purchased by regulated electric generating plants at which the generator nameplate capacity of all steam-electric and combined-cycle units together totals 50 megawatts or more. Data for 2002 forward cover those plants plus unregulated generating plants whose total facility fossil-fueled nameplate generating capacity is 50 megawatts or greater, regardless of unit type.